

Spring 3-4-1977

Six Characters in Search of an Author (1977)

San Jose State University, Theatre Arts

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THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT STAFF

Hal J. Todd	Chairman
Patricia Boyette	Voice & Diction, Acting
Howard Burman	Theatre History, Dramatic Literature
Charles Chess	Film
William Craig	Radio, Television
Paul Davee	Acting, Directing
Dorothy Davis	Secretary
Kenneth Dorst	Stage Lighting, Graduate Research
James R. Earle	Technical Director
Robert Erlebach	Accompanist
Clarence Flick	Radio, Television
Mina Garman	Dance
John Goodrich	Dance
Joyce Griffin	Publicity
Carol Haws	Dance
Graham Hempel	Dance
Robert Hosfeldt	Radio, Television
Karen Hurley	Acting, Directing
Robert Jenkins	Creative Dramatics, Children's Theatre
Annette Macdonald	Dance
William Matolyak	Radio, Television Technician
Richard McCafferty	Radio, Television
Frank McCann	Radio, Television
Grant McKernie	Dramatic Literature
Noreen Mitchell	Readers Theatre, Oral Interpretation
Addyse Palagyi	Drama Education, Storytelling
Richard Parks (on leave)	Voice and Diction, Acting
Steve Placke	Theatre Production Technician
Donamarie Reeds	Scene Design
Brigitte Sitte	Costume Design
Clyde Sumpter	Dramatic Literature
David Steiner	Theatre Appreciation
Janet Van Swoll	Dance
Albert Wackermann	Sound Technician
Cal Warren	Costume Technician

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Joan of Arc at the Stake by Arthur Honegger — San Jose Center for the Performing Arts March 19 and 20.

Neil Simon's Barefoot in the Park — Studio Theatre, April 29, 30.

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales — University Theatre, May 6, 7, 11-14.

SAN JOSE STATE

UNIVERSITY THEATRE

presents

SIX CHARACTERS in SEARCH of AN AUTHOR



by **LUIGI PIRANDELLO**

March 4, 5, 9-12, 1977

SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

A play in the making
by Luigi Pirandello

Directed by Hal J. Todd
Scene Design by Donamarie Reeds
Costume Design by Cal Warren
Lighting Design by Kenneth R. Dorst
Technical Direction by James R. Earle

CAST

MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

THE DIRECTOR Sal Aiello
LEADING MAN Dennis Martin
LEADING LADY Nancy Merrell
ACTOR Patrick Turner
ACTRESS Michelle Zalesny
JUVENILE Peter Hadres
INGENUE Cherielyn Gunderson
STAGE MANAGER Bruce Pruitt
ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR Karen Johnson
STAGE HAND Richard Fisher

THE CHARACTERS

THE FATHER Patric Taylor
THE MOTHER Alice Hall
THE STEP-DAUGHTER Sharon Holmin
THE SON John Davies
THE BOY Richard Steiner
THE LITTLE GIRL Mary Hamilton
MADAME PACE Jan Chait

SCENE: The Theatre during a rehearsal.
There are no acts or scenes, but there will be one intermission and the curtain will
close briefly on another occasion.

TECHNICAL STAFF

Stage Manager Doreen Remo
Assistant Stage Manager Pat Hamilton
Master Carpenter Steven Placke
Scenery Crewhead Leonard Hantz
Scenery Construction John Dechant, Rodney J. Smith,
Loree Harding, Tom Castro
Pinrail Crewhead Paul Troolines
Property Crewheads Betty Hom, Gloria Holguin
Property Coordinator Kani Seifert
Property Crew DeLynn Howes, Chun Fen Su
Sound Designer Steven Pierce under the supervision of
James R. Earle, Jr.
Master Electrician Denise Cartmill
Lighting Crewhead Meredith Zydner
Lighting Crew Liza Rezowalli, James Willett
Costume Crewhead Willie Williams
Costume Crew Manuel Bello, Clayton Choy, Patricia Clark, Linda Galvan
Seamstress Margaret R. Curry, Selena Norwood
Musical Arrangement Raymond Mendonca
Makeup Crew Ellen Briggs, Corinne Hyland, Debbie Morgan, Susan Howard
House Manager Raymond Mendonca
Publicity/Public Relations Joyce Griffin
Box Office Manager Kathy Schaefer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bed provided by SJSU Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Merrell
Puff, the Dog owned by Susan Freel

PROGRAM NOTES (excerpts from the author's preface)

Fantasy, several years ago, had the bad inspiration of ill-omened caprice to bring a family into my house. I wouldn't know where she fished them up or how, but, according to her, I could find in them the subject for a magnificent novel. . . . Born alive, they wished to live.

I thought to myself: "I have already afflicted my readers with hundreds and hundreds of stories. Why should I afflict them now by narrating the sad entanglements of these six unfortunates?"

And, thinking thus, I put them away from me. Or rather I did all I could do to put them away.

Creatures of my spirit, . . . these six were already living a life which was their own and not mine any more, a life which it was not in my power any more to deny them . . . I actually became obsessed with them. Until, all of a sudden, a way out of the difficulty flashed upon me.

"Why not," I said to myself, . . . let them go where dramatic characters do go to have life: on a stage. And let us see what will happen." . . . Naturally, the result was what it had to be: a mixture of tragic and comic, fantastic and realistic, in a humourous situation that was quite new and infinitely complex.

But the miracle is not arbitrary. The stage — a stage which accepts the fantastic reality of the six characters — is no fixed, immutable datum. Nothing in this play exists as given and preconceived. Everything is in the making, is in motion, is a sudden experiment.